

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A travel coupon server system comprising:  
a plurality of members; and  
a travel coupon server, interconnected to the plurality of members, for generating limited duration coupons for a particular traveler which identifies the traveler by name, which limits the duration of the offer of the coupon to the time of the travel, and which limits the coupons offered to the traveler's destinations or along the route to those destinations.
2. The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of members includes an offering company.
3. The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of members includes the particular traveler.
4. The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of members includes an intermediary agent for processing information about travelers.
5. The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is a travel agent.
6. The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is an airline representative.

7. The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is a representative of a cruise line.

8. The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is a travel facilitator for one of a club, a union, a professional association, a financial institution, and an educational institution.

9. The travel coupon server system of claim 4, wherein the intermediary agent is a travel information provider.

10. The travel coupon server system of claim 1, wherein the travel coupon server further comprises:

processor means for managing the data of the travel coupon server and generating content for the participating members of the travel coupon server system;

database means for storing profile data, offer data and rules of the system; and

access means for receiving and interpreting inputs from the participating members of the travel coupon server system.

11. The travel coupon server system of claim 9, wherein the database means includes:

means for storing traveler profile data, offer data, offering company profile data, and rules.

12. A coupon server system comprising:  
a plurality of members; and  
a coupon server, interconnected to the plurality of members, for generating limited duration coupons for a particular user which identifies the user by name, which limits the duration of the offer of the coupon to a fixed time period, and which limits the coupons offered to the user's geographic location.

13. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of members includes an offering company.

14. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of members includes the particular user.

15. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of members includes an intermediary agent for processing information about users.

16. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the coupon server further comprises:

processor means for managing the data of the coupon server and generating content for the participating members of the coupon server system;

database means for storing profile data, offer data and rules of the system; and

access means for receiving and interpreting inputs from the participating members of the coupon server system.

17. The coupon server system of claim 16, wherein the database means includes:

means for storing user profile data, offer data, offering company profile data, and rules.

18. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the limited duration coupons are generated according to a plurality of factors, including the date and the season of the year.

19. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the limited duration coupons are applicable in the purchase of a product or a service.

20. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the limited duration coupons are numerically limited to a predetermined number of coupons.

21. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the limited duration coupons include sequentially-generated indicia thereupon.

22. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the coupon server is interconnected to the plurality of members by wireless connections.

23. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the coupon server pushes information to a user regarding available discount offers.

24. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the discount coupons are delivered to the user by mail.

25. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the discount coupons are delivered to the user over the Internet.

26. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the discount coupons including bar codes; and

upon redemption, a redemption station scans a respective bar code of a discount coupon to redeem the associated discount for the user.

27. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein redemption of a discounted coupon enrolls the user in a sweepstakes.

28. The coupon server system of claim 12, wherein the discount coupons are trackable upon redemption.

29. A method for providing coupons to travelers, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving traveler information of a first traveler at a travel coupon server;

accessing traveler profile data corresponding to a traveler profile stored in a profiles database;

determining a match of the traveler information of the first traveler with the traveler profile data; and

outputting the match to an offering company to cause the generation of an offer from the offering company for to be provided to the first traveler in a coupon to utilize the offer.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the travel coupon server, the first traveler, and the offering company are interconnected by a network for transmitting information in the steps of receiving the traveler information and outputting the match.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the network is the Internet.

32. The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the generated offer from the offering company to the travel coupon server; and  
storing the generated offer in an offer database.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

accessing the stored offers in the offer database; and  
preparing a travel package for the first traveler including at least one offer matching the travel information of the first traveler.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of receiving traveler information includes the step of:

receiving travel destination data at a travel coupon server corresponding to a travel destination of the first traveler.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving destination offer data from an offer database corresponding to the travel destination of the first traveler;

providing interactive data to the traveler; and

recording traveler interactions with the travel coupon server in response to the interactive data, wherein the traveler interactions include input data from the first traveler to be included in the traveler information associated with the first traveler.

36. A method for providing coupons to travelers, the method comprising the steps of:

interconnecting a plurality of members and a travel coupon server;

receiving, at the travel coupon server, traveler information from a first member, wherein the traveler information is associated with a particular traveler and includes traveler destination data and traveler profile data; and

generating and outputting, from the travel coupon server, limited duration coupons for the particular traveler which identifies the particular traveler by name, which limits the duration of the offer of the coupon to the time of the travel, and which limits the coupons offered to the traveler's destinations or along the route to those destinations.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the first member includes a travel agent.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of interconnecting includes the step of:

interconnecting the plurality of members and the travel coupon server via the Internet.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the step of generating and outputting includes the steps of:

generating coupon data in a coupon format;  
transmitting the coupon data via the Internet to a computing device of the particular traveler; and  
outputting the coupon data as a limited duration coupon directly to a printer associated with the particular traveler.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising the steps of:

displaying to the particular traveler through an associated web browser at least one available offer; and  
receiving at the travel coupon server an offer selection from the particular traveler corresponding to a particular displayed offer;

wherein the steps of generating and outputting the limited duration coupon is responsive to the offer selection from the particular traveler through the web browser.